

THE FAIRMOUNT BULLETIN

Official Organ of The Fairmount Improvement Association

Vol. 1

FAIRMOUNT, MAY, 1905

No. 4

FAMOUS FAIRMOUNTERS

Thumb-Nail Sketches of Men of Distinction

Fairmount has been rich with men who have made a mark in life—men who have done something—men who by their strong individuality caused their memory to live after their earthly work was finished.

Let us take a glance backward at the lives of some of these men, not giving full biographies of them, but little "thumb-nail sketches," as it were, of some of these sterling characters of old Fairmount.

In this month's issue we confine ourselves just to a part of one street in the Fairmount district, namely, Fairmount avenue. A short stretch of territory, but rich in material for the historian!

SYLVANUS COBB, JR., a master workman in constructing a story, a man of lovable character, a man who did much through his writings to make better men and women, was born in Waterville, Me., June 5, 1823, died July 20, 1887, in the Fairmount district of Hyde Park, in the house which he had erected and in which he had lived for over 18 years, a house still standing, and now occupied by C. L. Alden.

It was an ideal home, surrounded with beautiful flowers, and a landscape of hill and valley restful to look upon, yet full of life. Way up in the tower of the house, in a room 12 feet square, was his literary workshop.

Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., was probably the most prolific writer of fiction that this country has ever had. Sometimes his publishers found it necessary to use fictitious authors' names to his writings in order to prevent "too much Cobb" literature appearing at the same time in their publications. In the admirable memoir by his daughter there is a list of his published novels which foots up to 163 separate and distinct long stories. Aside from these he wrote thousands of short stories and sketches. He was a clean writer. His stories were read by sire and son in thousands of households, and the New York Ledger, in which most of his work appeared, was a fixed family institu-

tion a generation ago. In those days there was no such deluge of books and magazines as at the present time, and the Ledger was to many homes the Alpha and Omega of literature. That his popularity was not for a day only is proved by the fact that when he began his career on the Ledger in 1856 his first story to appear, "The Gunmaker of Moscow," was so well received that three years after the demand was so persistent that the paper had to publish it again. Twenty-four years later, with a new generation of readers, the publisher was again compelled to publish it in response to many people who had read it and wanted their children to do likewise.

For 31 years Mr. Cobb wrote almost exclusively for the Ledger, and this long period of service was marked by the strongest bond of loyalty and affection between him and Robert Bonner, the publisher, a friendship which was only parted by the death of the author.

Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., was of a noted family, of sturdy Pilgrim lineage. His father, Rev. Sylvanus Cobb, D. D., was a noted Universalist preacher and writer. One brother has achieved fame as a sculptor, another is an artist, able and widely known.

During his residence in Hyde Park Mr. Cobb gave freely of his powers to the town's service. He frequently acted as Moderator of the town meeting. He was active in instituting our Public Library, and for nine years as a member of the Board of Trustees labored for its advancement. In the Masonic bodies of our town he was a charter member of Norfolk Royal Arch Chapter, of Hyde Park Council and of Cyprus Commandery, filling many offices in each. He was always proud of the Hyde Park Masonic bodies and rejoiced in their success. He was also an active member of Timothy Ingraham Post, 121, G. A. R., serving as its first commander, and the local camp of the Sons of Veterans bears his honored name.

In all things Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., was a loyal and conscientious citizen, a man of right and might, and Hyde Parkers can always point with pride to his career and get inspiration from his life.

THEODORE DWIGHT WELD, a pioneer

—(Continued on page 8.)

Window Screens



Keep Out the Flies

Our stock of Window Screens and Screen Doors is the largest and best we have ever had.

Window Screens

from 50 to 75c.

Screen Doors

75c. to \$1.75

The \$1.75 door is heavy 11-8 stock. Such a door, if made to order, would cost from \$4 to \$5.

Farrell's Hardware Store

Headquarters for Hammocks, Lawn Mowers, Ice Cream Freezers

KENNEDY'S BLOCK—TEL. 134—HYDE PARK, MASS.

HYDE PARK STEAM LAUNDRY



A pleased customer is one who has our work. The goods have a nice, clear color, a finish that is in style, wears well and saves the goods.

Dress Shirts and ladies' wear receive special care. Try the work and be pleased.

L. M. BICKFORD, TELEPHONE 350

FRANK W. GLEASON & CO.,

Plumbers, Steam and Gas Fitters

DEALERS IN AND REPAIRERS OF

STOVES, FURNACES, RANGES, STEAM AND HOT
WATER BOILERS

52 Fairmount Ave.—Tel. 122-4—Hyde Park, Mass.

JUST A SUGGESTION

To the Editor of The Bulletin,

Dear Sir: The committee appointed by the town to prepare and report a suitable system of government that will meet the requirements of towns of ten thousand inhabitants or more—one that will be a go-between the present town and city forms—seem to have a hopeless task. The attempt has been made so often, always with the result that the courts ruled it unconstitutional, that the present committee may well despair of success. There never yet has been introduced a hybrid that could equal a thoroughbred.

If this committee wishes to do the town a really good service; put it on the right track; and at the same time enhance their own reputation as men of discernment and foresight—I advise them to give due consideration to the initiative and referendum form of government.

It is argued that a different method of conducting town affairs must be instituted, because at present, owing to narrow quarters, only a small percentage of the voters at a time can gain admittance to the town hall. In consequence of this a certain few "run things" to suit themselves and the rest foot the bills and kick. Thus it is easily seen that the old form of town government ceases to be representative—in the larger towns at least. At our annual appropriation meeting, with hundreds of thousands of dollars to be appropriated, only about one-sixth of our citizens can pass judgment on the articles in the warrant. As a result of this condition of things voters lose their interest in town affairs.

Out of 2875 voters, 862 failed to avail themselves of the right of suffrage at the last town election. This is not a very creditable showing in favor of the present system, to say the least; and if an injection of referendum ideas did not make things political

flourish with renewed vigor, it would certainly do no harm.

There is nothing Utopian or Socialistic about this suggestion. While it is true that the referendum is a foreign importation, it is merely an extension of our system.

Under the initiative and referendum to have an article inserted in the town warrant it would be necessary to procure the signatures of ten voters who favored the idea set forth; then the Board of Selectmen would receive and turn it over to the Advisory Committee for their consideration. Anyone would be privileged to argue for or against any measure before the committee, whose approval would guarantee its insertion in the warrant. At the town meeting the various propositions in the warrant would be considered. For example, an article relative to schools, calling for an appropriation of \$55,000, would be discussed. If, in the judgment of those present, the sum asked for was not excessive, the recommendation would be placed upon a ballot, to be submitted to the citizens one week later, at which time all voters would have an opportunity to indicate their preferences on the articles submitted. On the other hand, if attendants at the town meeting thought the amount asked for schools extravagant they could move to amend, making the sum less. If two amendments were offered a vote would be taken, and the amendment carrying, together with the original article, would be placed on the ballot. Thus voters, besides sharing in a greater degree than now the responsibilities of government, would be constantly broadening their ideas of the needs of the town by coming directly in contact with all important matters in the conduct of its affairs.

We suggest this as a logical step in the direction of better and more representative government. We shall never get better conditions by adopting the city form of

Continued on page 6

Albee's Fish Market

SAMUEL ALBEE, Proprietor

Telephone 145-4.

53 and 55 Fairmount Avenue, Hyde Park, Mass.

Fresh, Salt and
Smoked Fish
of all kinds

OYSTERS
CLAMS
LOBSTERS

Special prices
on Fish and
Oysters Saturdays

Canned Goods, Teas, Coffees, Eggs and Vegetables

We don't give stamps—but we do give full value for your money.

The Fairmount Bulletin

In the Interests of Good Government

PUBLISHED BY

The Fairmount Improvement Association

HYDE PARK, MASS.

Communications for The Bulletin should be addressed to L. P. Winchenbaugh, 120 Dana avenue, Hyde Park.

MAY, 1905

The East River Street Improvement Association has appointed a committee to confer with other improvement associations in regard to an interchange of visits. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and it ought to meet with general approval. Let's get together—and be more sociable.

It will be a source of gratification to residents in the Glenwood district to learn that the plans for the new foot bridge, for which the town made provision at its last appropriation meeting, are nearly completed. Arrangements with the Metropolitan Park Commission and the officials of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad are reported progressing rapidly. The sooner operations begin the better.

The main object of The Bulletin is to quicken members of the association and citizens generally to the work of improvement and good government. All about us are people who never have worked to better conditions, and never will unless they are constantly prodded. Those who want good government and the best of surroundings outnumber all others at least two to one. If the majority doesn't get what it wants, who's to blame?

The waste-paper nuisance is still in evidence. Not long ago a cartload of small paper was deposited in one of the dumping places in town, and for weeks afterward the streets in the neighborhood were completely littered with old receipted bills. To pay one's honest debts is a commendable thing to do; but is it necessary to advertise the fact? A little more care in such matters should be the rule. It's easy enough to touch a match to such accumulations of rubbish, thus keeping it off the streets.

It is not believed that any large strings of fish will be caught in the Neponset this

spring, particularly on the Fowl Meadows, which extend into Norwood and Walpole. Last fall the Boston Ice Company obtained permission from the State Board of Health to put some chemicals into the water to clear it of impurities or vegetable growth. The fish were thriving, despite the impurities, but copper sulphate was too much for the perch and suckers, and report has it that at least forty thousand of them turned up their fins. Pickerel and black bass are hardier species, however, and the chemical has not wrought such havoc among them. Fishers with a fondness for story telling will please take notice.

THE NON-VOTER

There are times, no doubt, when a citizen who is recreant in his duty on election day has an excellent excuse to offer in extenuation of his staying away from the polls, but it is not reasonable to suppose that all of the 800 or more voters who failed to vote in the last town election could offer good and sufficient reasons for their neglect of this important duty. Furthermore, it would be hard to explain just why these stay-at-homes are called voters, for it is because they are not voters that they are criticised.

The various improvement associations in town have an important problem to work out in connection with these non-voters, for it is necessary to interest them sufficiently in town affairs to have them come to the polling booth on election day. The question uppermost in the minds of those interested is what plan to pursue to accomplish this purpose, and thus further the interests of good government.

During the last campaign the Good Government Association of Boston mailed an individual appeal to upward of thirty thousand of these "grafters friends," the non-voters, urging them to exercise their right and privilege of citizenship, and enclosing with each of the letters a list of names of the men in their immediate neighborhood who had failed to vote, asking each man to interest his neighbor. These letters were sent out just prior to the state election in November, and the vote of the city at that election was the heaviest in years. It is only fair to assume that the association appeal had some part in the result.

We leave it to those who are doing much thinking along this line just at present whether this would not be a good plan to adopt in Hyde Park to "stir up" those in our community who are, or ought to feel, duty-bound to assume larger responsibilities in connection with town affairs.

GRADE CROSSINGS HEARINGS

The reopening of the grade crossings hearings awakens a hope for a speedy settlement of this highly important question. The visitation of Mr. Byrnes, the personal representative of President Mellen of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, the impression he made and the kindly words he uttered at the business men's banquet give hopes that the railroad will abandon its narrow and short-sighted policy of insisting on their plans simply because of their cheapness, regardless of the wishes of our townspeople and the interests of the town, and cooperate with us to secure the best possible solution—with due regard not alone for our present requirements, but for future needs as well.

We should lose no opportunity, however, to impress upon the commissioners that no matter what the attitude of the railroad may be we, as citizens, are a unit in our desire to see the town plans adopted.

It is hoped that the same general interest will be manifested in these hearings as was shown in the past. While it is expected that Fairmounters, who are vitally affected by a proper settlement of this question, will manifest an interest by being present, an equal interest by our friends from other parts of the town will be appreciated.

Don't forget the dates of the hearings—June 12th and 13th, at 10 A. M., State House.

James A. Tilden, chairman of the association railroad committee, has chosen as his associates Frederic N. Tirrell and C. A. Boynton. This committee will ensure, we feel, the careful safeguarding of our interests at the coming hearings.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

The innovation of smoking and the serving of light refreshments is extremely popular with Readville association members, and will tend to increase the attendance.

The new officers of the East River Street Improvement Association are E. L. Barrett president, F. H. Speed vice president, J. G.

Carter treasurer, G. H. Priesing secretary, G. A. Long financial secretary, J. T. Coyne, J. E. Farrell, F. F. Loud, G. E. Edwards directors.

T. H. Corrigan began the construction of the Neponset avenue drain last week, which goes to prove that all things come to him who waits. The association members in the vicinity of Neponset avenue have waited long and patiently for this much needed improvement.

The Readville Improvement Association committee on new schoolhouse is not at all disheartened by the action of the recent town meeting, and is certain that all that needs to be done is to bring the simple facts before the voters of the town, who, when informed, cannot deny the justice of the claim of the Readville people—that a new location must soon be found for the Damon school.

The address of Chief of Police Butters at the April meeting of the Readville association was both interesting and instructive. He praised the efficiency of the Hyde Park force in the highest terms, claiming that there is no better in the state. He believes, however, that we, like every other town and city, should have at least one policeman for every 1,000 of population. He spoke of greatly needed improvements at the station, especially a padded cell and a cell for women entirely removed from those for men.

The old, ramshackle building on the Carleton estate, Beacon street and Fairmount avenue, has been razed. Credit for the removal of this eyesore is due George M. Peabody. The past six months this old building has been a nightmare to the fire laddies, the town having spent a sum out of all proportion to its worth in its endeavors to keep the flames from consuming it. The expenditure has not been altogether useless, however, as it has served to give the citizens of Hyde Park frequent demonstrations of the efficiency of their fire department. Nevertheless, the members of the Fairmount association are not shedding any tears over its remains.

Noble's Beef, Iron and Wine

50c.

Mark E. Noble Apothecary Everett Sq.

Just a Suggestion—Continued from page 3
government, for we all know that that is, besides being a luxury, the bulwark of corruption; nor shall we fare better under a mongrel system, supposing it were possible to create one. What is wanted is something better than we already have. The initiative and referendum, so it is reported from western towns that have adopted the system, meets this requirement.

It is claimed for this method that it affords ample opportunity for the expression of the popular will on all matters of legislation. One acts as an offset to the other. The referendum is the passive force; the initiative, the creative. One supplies the progressive element in the process of legislation, while the other acts as a critical controlling check upon the adoption of proposals. Under such a system all appropriations would be voted on by ballot, the same as the no-license question is now voted on, and the advantage of one clique over another through little deals, or "packing the town meeting," would be entirely eliminated. If deals were made or meetings packed it would be of no avail, for on election day all recommendations would have to meet the scrutiny of the taxpayer.

Possibly, too, under the beneficent influence of such a system, it would be easier to elect to office men of recognized ability and untarnished honor—men who now stand aloof as a rule, relinquishing the political field to adventurers, tricksters and nincompoops.

Why not think this over, gentlemen of the committee?
H. W. J.

IMPROVING THE NEPONSET

It looks as if something would soon be done on the improvement of Dorchester bay and the Neponset river, for it is reported from Washington that Congressman McNary has taken up the matter with the war department and with Col. Stanton, the en-

gineer in charge of the Boston district. The congressman has worked hard for this improvement, and last year succeeded in getting through an appropriation for a survey of the river and bay, and this year the improvement was provided for in the rivers and harbors appropriation of congress. The congressman is now arranging for a conference between the engineer in charge, the wharf owners and others interested. Dorchester bay and the Neponset are every year becoming more and more important, as the shipping space in Boston harbor proper becomes limited, or is taken up by the larger ships to the exclusion of the smaller ones. The improvement of the bay and river will mean the provision of a large territory to which Boston shipping may expand, and the day may not be very far distant when wharves and piers will line the shore which is now little used. Any benefit to the bay will increase the value of that part of Milton which can be used for shipping purposes.
—Milton Record.

It is gratifying to learn that something is being done in the way of improving our river, though it is at its mouth and not its source. What we are interested in knowing is when the foulness and uncleanness of the Neponset, which is such a source of disease and such a menace to the health of our inhabitants, is to be removed. Not much seems to have been accomplished by the State Board of Health under the last legislation, which was wholly inadequate to meet the situation. It is time that something more was done, and there is a growing feeling that the Metropolitan Park Commission is the body most competent to undertake a proper solution of the problem. They already are in possession of the banks of the river, and have taken a large stretch of the Fowl Meadows. With the necessary legislation there is no reason why they should not make of the Neponset as beautiful a stream as the Charles river.

Algy—Why are you always borrowing trouble, Willie?

Willie—I'll tell you, Algy; it all comes of my not being able to borrow money.

BUY A HOUSE AND

SAVE MONEY

Fire, Life and Accident Insurance at lowest rates.

See my list and prices, then you will cease to be

IN DOUBT.

PETER J. WEBB

62 West River Street, Hyde Park
or 1 Beacon Street, Boston

IN TIME GONE BY
AND TIME TO COME

Kennedy's for a Square Deal

The Best of Clothes 20 to 33 percent Less Than Boston Prices

KENNEDY'S

HYDE PARK'S BEST CLOTHING
AND SHOE STORE

Economy is Wealth — Gas Ranges are Economical — Therefore Gas Ranges are Wealth

NO EXPENSE AFTER SHUTTING OFF
FULL EFFICIENCY ON LIGHTING
NO EXTRA HEAT
NO DIRT

Dedham & Hyde Park Gas and Electric Light Company
HYDE PARK, MASS.

You Think of **ANDERSON** You Think of
GOOD SHOES

Exclusive Agent for

W. L. DOUGLAS and THE BION SHOES
for Men; DOROTHY DODD and KNICK-
ERBOCKER SHOES for Ladies.

NEW WAY BUILDING

20 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park, Mass.

We also do shoe repairing—and do it right.

ADVERTISELETS

BY WILDER GRAHAME

Two bakers of Bungtown are rivals.
One hustles from morning till night.
His ads. are in all the town papers,
And rake in every dollar in sight.

His rival still leads in one feature;
Although he does not advertise,
And gathers less dust in his coffers,
He gathers far more on his pies.

FAMOUS FAIRMOUNTERS

Continued from page 1

in the cause of freedom, an advocate for the liberty of the black man when it wasn't fashionable to champion his rights, was born in Hampton, Conn., Nov. 23, 1803, died in the Fairmount district of Hyde Park, Feb. 3, 1895, beloved and honored by great and noble minds, and even by many who hated and despised him in earlier years because he battled for freedom for the colored race. Mr. Weld's life was one of action. He entered Hamilton College but did not remain to graduate. He lectured on abolition until 1836, when, having lost his voice, he became editor of some of the publications of the American Anti-Slavery Society. In 1854 he opened a private school in New Jersey; ten years later he settled in Massachusetts, coming to Hyde Park a few years later, continuing to live in the same house on Fairmount until his death.

Mr. Weld was blessed with a wife who was in perfect accord with his work. On May 15, 1838, he was married to Angelina Grimke, a noted abolitionist, daughter of Judge John F. Grimke of Charleston, S. C. Her family were of the highest social rank and she was born in one of the strongholds of slavery. From her earliest childhood she abhorred slavery, and in 1830 left her home forever, joined her sister Sarah in Philadelphia, and together these two women labored zealously in freedom's cause. After her marriage to Mr. Weld it was far from her expectations to end her public labors, but early in her married life she was twice severely injured, and thereby incapacitated from further public speaking. Her sister went with her into retirement and both assisted Mr. Weld in his school work. Both of these gifted women lived to see the complete triumph of the anti-slavery cause, Sarah Grimke dying in

1873 and Angelina (Mrs. Weld) in 1879 in the Weld home on Fairmount avenue.

Mr. Weld had the satisfaction which does not come to every reformer, that of living to see his work finished. His career was closely linked with men whose names will never be blotted from the pages of American history. Wendell Phillips, Henry B. Stanton, John G. Whittier, Henry Ward Beecher, William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Wilson, Theodore D. Weld: friends in success and failure, never tiring, never hesitating in their fight for freedom for the unfree of the human race.

Mr. Weld's life in Hyde Park was largely in the nature of a peaceful and joyous ending of a strenuous life. Here he was beloved by young and old; here his kindly face and words served as a benediction to all who met him. He was the "father" of the Hyde Park Public Library, and the title of "Father Weld" given him by many was one of respect and affection. In our public schools he was always ready to speak to the children, and in every good movement in our town his voice and influence could always be counted on. He "fought a good fight" and lived the life that God gave him to its full capacity of usefulness. Would that the world had more like him.

(Thumb-Nail Sketches to be Continued.)

MOST DANGEROUS CLASS

"We talk continually about the 'dangerous classes' in our cities. The most dangerous class are the men in high social position who are so busy with their business and pleasures that they neglect the caucus and the polling booth and shirk all other civic duties."—Samuel B. Capen.

For the benefit of those who contemplate joining improvement associations in their districts, but who never quite make up their minds, we recommend the memorizing of St. James 1, 22.

**Boston
Cash
Market**

J. H. WETHERBEE, Prop.

Good Meat Not Hard to Get

No matter how much trouble it is for us to get it, you have only to come here, and good meat—fresh, tender and clean—is the kind you'll get every day. We also keep a good line of Provisions, Canned Goods, Fowl and Fish. No trouble to see you on the telephone if you haven't time to call. Our number is 54-2. We're always listening for your ring, anticipating that you want perfection in quality and economy in prices.

3 BANK BLOCK, - - - - HYDE PARK, MASS.